Rainier Beach Neighborhood Capacity Project
Case Statement
March 2012

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Rainier Beach Neighborhood

Rainier Beach is one of the most vibrant neighborhoods in Seattle. As communities have continued to move south to access more affordable housing, Rainier Beach has become populated with a vast array of cultural, community and economic resources and is now proudly bearing the honor of housing the most diverse zip code in the country.[1]

Rainier Beach is defined by…Here, there should be a description of the physical and demographic definitions and attributes of the neighborhood:
- how is it defined geographically (maybe including an explanation about why there is a difference between the urban village boundaries and the neighborhood boundaries used for this planning process, if appropriate [and not too confusing] to note)?
- who lives here (ages, races/ethnicities, languages spoken, immigration status, etc.)?
- who works here?
- who plays here?
- what are notable highlights about this population that came out of the recent Census numbers (which populations grew, etc.)?
- what are neighborhood features (new light rail station, library, schools)?

This information should be based in data – like the Census – and should also be consistent with any demographic information presented in the plan itself or in corresponding plan documents, if there is any such information featured in these places.

This would also be a good place to:
- summarize the neighborhood assets that are highlighted in the Action Plan and the Plan Update; and
- talk about some of the challenges and opportunities that the neighborhood faces. Again, this information should be in synch with that which has been presented in the planning process and framed in the plan documents.

Rainier Beach Neighborhood Planning Process

In 2010, Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn and the Seattle City Council identified Rainier Beach as one of two neighborhoods to participate in the 2011-12 round of neighborhood plan updates. Rainier Beach's last plan had been established in 1999, and since then the neighborhood has undergone dramatic changes, ranging from expansion of the Rainier Beach Library Branch to the opening of a light rail station. It was in prime position for creation of a new blueprint to carry the neighborhood through the next decade towards 2020.

> **Comment [MSOffice2]:** I need to check how this neighborhood was prioritized – not sure it was mayor and council

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[1] In Spring 2010, KOMO 4 News featured a story that the 98118 zip code area – a large portion of which rests within the Rainier Beach neighborhood – is now the most diverse zip code in the country. US Census Partner Specialist Ahmed Scego, who was interviewed in the story, confirms that 59 languages are spoken here. (http://columbiacity.komonews.com/content/census-bureau-98118-most-diverse-zip-code-us)

To provide local knowledge and to serve as an informational and communications bridge between the planning process and the neighborhood, a group of community members was selected to serve on the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee:

- Rodolfo Castillo
- Christie Coxley
- Katy Curtis
- Gregory Davis
- Cheryl dos-Remedios
- Vallerie Fisher
- Mohamed Sheikh Hassan

- Harry Hoffman
- Peter Masundire
- Guyanthony Parramore
- David Sauvion
- Robert West "Trey"
- Margaret Yellowwolf

Seattle Department of Neighborhood's Planning Outreach and Engagement Liaisons (POELs) also worked to bring neighborhood voices to the table. Recruited from within the populations with which they are charged to connect, POELs served important roles in making the planning process accessible to the neighborhood's diverse communities.

- List the names of the POELs, if appropriate.

Under the management of the Seattle Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON), the planning process was implemented through four phases[2]:

- In **Phase 1** (early 2011), a series of community meetings was convened and community members were asked to provide input about things they think are great about Rainier Beach, things that need improvement, how they use the community for such activities as gathering, shopping and recreation, and their ideas for the future. Information was collected about: community and culture; business; safety; youth and schools; transportation; housing; parks and recreation; and the Rainier Beach Town Center. All meetings were open to the public and, while some were conducted in English, others were organized to reach specific populations to ensure diverse representation throughout the planning process: Afan-Oromo-speaking communities; Amharic-speaking communities; Tagalog-speaking communities; African Americans; Laotians; Latinos; seniors; people living with disabilities; and youth. One meeting was hosted by the City, and the remaining were hosted by Planning Outreach and Engagement Liaisons.

- In **Phase 2** (mid-2011), with community-development themes taking shape, community members were invited by the City and by POELs to begin prioritizing the ideas and suggestions that were brought forward in Phase 1 conversations. A framework of three strategic categories was formed to guide the neighborhood's planning efforts: resilient community and organizations; healthy people and families; and supportive physical environment. Again, workshops were held to engage historically underrepresented

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[2] Detailed information about the planning process can be found on the Seattle DPD's Web site: http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Neighborhood_Planning/NeighborhoodPlanUpdates/RainierBeach/default.asp.

communities: Afan-Oromo-speaking communities; Amharic-speaking communities; African Americans; Latinos/Hispanics; and Somalis.

- **Phase 3** (fall 2011) involved an open house for community members to review proposed goals and strategies that grew from the values, issues and opportunities voiced by the community throughout the preceding phases.

- In **Phase 4** (spring 2012), a community-wide workshop was hosted by the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee and the City to introduce the final version of the plan to neighborhood members.

In all, ### people participated in the planning process. Should note any other highlights about this process.

In March? 2012, the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan Update was approved by the Seattle City Council.

I. RAINIER BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan Update is a roadmap for the neighborhood, guiding its community development efforts through 2020. Four initiatives frame the plan's strategies:

- **Rainier Beach is a place for everyone.** Rainier Beach residents, long-term and new, all have access to safe, healthy and affordable housing; access to transit; and a variety of vibrant commercial centers to serve its cultural communities.
- **Rainier Beach is a place for life-long learning**. An innovative, connected learning system is strategically integrated into the neighborhood's cultural life.
- **Rainier Beach is the place to grow food to develop healthy industry**. Rainier Beach is an employment center for the agricultural products grown in the valley. Rainier Beach has a unique opportunity to combine its urban farms and light industrial zone to become a hub of food and agricultural production.
- **Rainier Beach is a beautiful, safe place.** The neighborhood is strengthened through increased public activity. Once we are all out in the neighborhood together, we have the opportunity to get to know each other. The more we know our neighbors, the safer we will be.

Highlights

List highlights of the plan update and include information about the impact of successful implementation of the plan.

Partners

List primary partners that will be involved in implementation of the plan.

Timeline

Summarize the implementation timeline.

Comment [N3]: Important note: These four initiatives are directly connected to the Make Rainier Beach Great! Action Plan. The Plan Update itself organizes all the strategies under three priority areas: Strong Community; Healthy People and Families; and Great Places.

Right now, the Plan Update has been presented as the detailed, everything-in-one-place document, and the Action Plan as the outline for first steps of implementation. But, there needs to be clarity about how those two documents relate to each other and, if both documents are going to be officially recognized and used, there should be synchronicity and consistency between the two in how information (about strategies, objectives, etc.) is presented.

For example, can the actions that are presented under "Rainier Beach is a place for everyone" be readily found in a corresponding spot in the Plan Update? If there are inconsistencies – particularly if these inconsistencies are not explained – it will be confusing to people like funders and could give the impression that some of this work has not yet been thoroughly thought through (which will be a terrible disservice to all the hard work everyone has put in over the last many, many months!)

Once decisions have been made about the relationship between these two docs, then this section of the case statement can be drafted up. This case statement is, essentially, an executive summary of the work. It should be easy for any reader to peruse this section and understand what is to be accomplished through the plan, and then to make direct connections from this case statement to the detailed information presented in the Action Plan and in the Plan Update.

II. IMPACT

This is where you can talk about what things will look like once the plan's implementation has been successfully completed. Make the argument for why someone should make an investment in these efforts. How will the neighborhood and community be changed as a result of this work?

III. FUND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Summarize the fund development plan. Cover things like:
- fundraising goal(s);
- fundraising sources (grants, events, in-kind support, etc.);
- strategies for raising the monies;
- who will be involved;
- etc.

Leadership Team and Infrastructure
Successful implementation of the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan Update will be realized through the leadership of a team of community members representative of the neighborhood's diverse constituencies.

List team members, with organizational or community affiliations, if appropriate. If there is a single organization leading implementation, this will likely include key staff, board members and community advisory board members. If there is a group or coalition of organizations leading the work, it should be a list of organizations and the individual(s) representing each organization. Talk also about the decision-making or organizational infrastructure that is in place to ensure full community engagement.

Contact Information
Note email, phone, street address, etc. for the person who is tasked with receiving inquiries related to the plan.